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Application No.: 09/604,564
Office Action Dated: August 11, 2004

PATENT

REMARKS

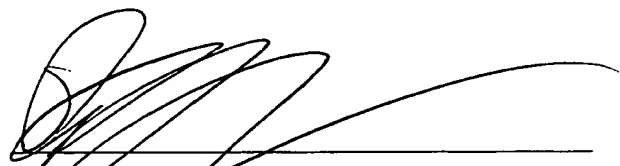
Following entry of the amendment, claims 1-2, 4-16, 18-39, and 41-48 will have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. The cancellation of these claims renders the rejection of these claims moot.

Claims 3, 17, and 40 have not been rejected, but have merely been objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Thus, applicants have amended these claims to place the claims in independent form. It should be noted that preamble of the original version of claim 17 recited a "computing device," while the base claim's preamble recited a "method." This inconsistency is due to a typographical error, and the amendment to claim 17 rectifies this error.

Additionally, the Examiner has objected to the declaration on the ground that it does not identify the citizenship of each inventor, or does not include an inventor's signature. In response, applicants direct the Examiner's attention to the declaration that was filed on November 3, 2000 in response to a missing parts notice. This declaration includes the signatures and citizenship of each inventor on pages 3-6. Thus, applicants respectfully request that the objection to the declaration be withdrawn.

Since the objection to claims 3, 17, and 40 has been overcome by the amendment, and since the objection to the declaration has been addressed, and since all rejected claims have been cancelled, applicants respectfully submit that this case is now in condition for allowance.

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